

In the Claims: (strikethrough parts deleted and underlined parts added)

Please cancel Claim 8 without prejudice.

1. (Original) A method of manufacturing a ski, comprising the steps of:

- (a) molding an elongate body comprised of a resilient material having a front portion having a front end, a middle portion, and a rear portion having a rear end, wherein said elongate body has a longitudinal axis extending from said rear portion to said middle portion and wherein said front portion has an initial position P1 which has an initial angle with respect to said longitudinal axis;
- (b) removing said elongate body from a mold utilized for molding said elongate body;
- (c) applying a bending force to said front portion of said elongate body thereby manipulating said front portion into a bowed structure having an intermediary position P2 which has an intermediary angle with respect to initial position P1;
- (d) securing a preload member having a first end and a second end to said middle portion and to said front portion of said elongate body respectively, wherein said preload member is comprised of a resilient material and resilient structure; and
- (e) allowing said front portion to return to a final position P3 which has a final angle with respect to said initial position P1.

2. (Original) The method of manufacturing a ski of Claim 1, wherein said elongate body is comprised of a ultra high molecular weight plastic.

3. (Original) The method of manufacturing a ski of Claim 1, wherein said initial angle is less than 5 degrees.

4. (Original) The method of manufacturing a ski of Claim 1, wherein said initial angle is less than 10 degrees.

5. (Original) The method of manufacturing a ski of Claim 1, wherein said middle portion includes a saddle portion that receives said first end of said preload member.

6. (Original) The method of manufacturing a ski of Claim 1, wherein said initial angle is less than 20 degrees.

7. (Original) The method of manufacturing a ski of Claim 1, wherein said initial angle has a range of between -5 to +5 degrees.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The method of manufacturing a ski of Claim 1, wherein said intermediary angle is at least 10 degrees.

10. (Original) The method of manufacturing a ski of Claim 1, wherein said preload member is comprised of a first segment and a second segment, wherein said first segment is comprised of a relatively straight structure and wherein said second segment is comprised of a relatively straight structure, and wherein said first segment and said second segment have an angle between thereof greater than 90 degrees.

11. (Original) A method of manufacturing a ski, comprising the steps of:

- (a) molding an elongate body comprised of a resilient material having a front portion having a front end, a middle portion, and a rear portion having a rear end, wherein said elongate body has a longitudinal axis extending from said rear portion to said middle portion and wherein said front portion has an initial position P1 which has an initial angle with respect to said longitudinal axis;
- (b) removing said elongate body from a mold utilized for molding said elongate body;

- (c) securing one end of said preload member having a first end and a second end to either said middle portion or to said front portion of said elongate body respectively, wherein said preload member is comprised of a resilient material and resilient structure;
- (d) applying a bending force to said front portion of said elongate body thereby manipulating said front portion into a bowed structure having an intermediary position P2 which has an intermediary angle with respect to initial position P1;
- (e) securing a remaining end of said preload member; and
- (f) allowing said front portion to return to a final position P3 which has a final angle with respect to said initial position P1.

12. (Original) The method of manufacturing a ski of Claim 11, wherein said elongate body is comprised of a ultra high molecular weight plastic.

13. (Original) The method of manufacturing a ski of Claim 11, wherein said initial angle is less than 5 degrees.

14. (Original) The method of manufacturing a ski of Claim 11, wherein said initial angle is less than 10 degrees.

15. (Original) The method of manufacturing a ski of Claim 11, wherein said middle portion includes a saddle portion that receives said first end of said preload member.

16. (Original) The method of manufacturing a ski of Claim 11, wherein said initial angle is less than 20 degrees.

17. (Original) The method of manufacturing a ski of Claim 11, wherein said initial angle has a range of between -5 to +5 degrees.

18. (Original) The method of manufacturing a ski of Claim 17, wherein said intermediary angle is at least 10 degrees.

19. (Original) The method of manufacturing a ski of Claim 11, wherein said intermediary angle is at least 10 degrees.

20. (Original) The method of manufacturing a ski of Claim 11, wherein said preload member is comprised of a first segment and a second segment, wherein said first segment is comprised of a relatively straight structure and wherein said second segment is comprised of a relatively straight structure, and wherein said first segment and said second segment have an angle between thereof greater than 90 degrees.

Please add the following claim:

21. (New) A method of manufacturing a ski, comprising the steps of:

providing an elongate body comprised of a resilient material having a front portion having a front end, a middle portion, and a rear portion having a rear end, wherein said elongate body has a longitudinal axis extending from said rear portion to said middle portion and wherein said front portion has an initial position P1 which has an initial angle with respect to said longitudinal axis;

applying a bending force to said front portion of said elongate body thereby manipulating said front portion into a bowed structure having an intermediary position P2 which has an intermediary angle with respect to initial position P1;

securing a preload member having a first end and a second end to said middle portion and to said front portion of said elongate body respectively, wherein said preload member is comprised of a resilient material and resilient structure; and

allowing said front portion to return to a final position P3 which has a final angle with respect to said initial position P1.

C. APPLICANT'S COMMENTS

Claims 1-7, 9-20 are pending in this Application with Claim 8 canceled and Claim 21 added. Reconsideration of Claims 1-7, 9-20 is respectfully requested. The Examiner's rejections will be considered in the order of their occurrence in the Official Action.

Paragraphs 2-3 of the Official Action

The Applicant has corrected the Abstract as requested by the Examiner. The Applicant respectfully submits that there are no further changes required to the Abstract.

Paragraph 4 of the Official Action

The Applicant has amended the Specification according to the Examiner's suggestion. However, the Applicant would like to note that "polyethylene" is a plastic and therefore it is respectfully submitted that there was proper support for "ultra high molecular weight plastic" within the Specification. The Applicant respectfully submits that there are no further changes required to the Abstract.

Paragraph 5 of the Official Action

This objection is deemed moot in view of the above.

Paragraphs 6-7 of the Official Action

Claims 1-7, 9-20 are respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance in view of paragraphs 6-7 of the Official Action.

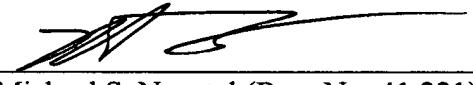
Added Claim 21

The Applicant has added a third independent Claim 21 to the application. Claim 21 has the basic limitations of Claim 1 except for the limitation of "molding" the ski and "removing" the ski from the mold which are deemed not necessary to practice the present invention. The Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 21 is in condition for allowance with Claims 1-7, 9-20.

D. CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited. Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully asked that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. Alternatively should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, they are invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael S. Neustel (Reg. No. 41,221)
NEUSTEL LAW OFFICES, Ltd.
2534 South University Drive, Suite No. 4
Fargo, North Dakota 58103

3-2-04

Date

Telephone: (701) 281-8822
Facsimile: (701) 237-0544
e-mail: Michael@neustel.com